

The Bloomfield Record.

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The Water Meetings.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP ENDORSED IN A CITIZENS MEETING.

The Ten-Year Contract Again Defeated. Authorized to be made for One Year Only.

The report of the Citizens' Committee on Water and Light, recommending Town Ownership for Bloomfield, and especially the notice contained in said report calling a citizen's meeting for last Monday evening, at Central Hall, has resulted in a thorough ventilation of that part of the joint problem relating to the water supply for our town. While the pamphlet was being generally distributed and read last week, the Township Committee must have been considerably exercised over the situation. Instead of falling in line with the popular movement, they undertook to divide the people into factions, using their authority to call a separate water meeting. They met last Saturday afternoon, when a motion was made and adopted to call a citizens' meeting on Tuesday evening, at which they would present a report on water under the instructions given at the citizens' meeting of Dec. 22, 1893.

This action must have kept some citizens from attending the meeting on Monday night, but Central Hall was nearly full, and it was an audience representative of the intelligent home-owning and tax-paying citizens of the town. J. Banks Reford was made Chairman and William Biggart Secretary. The report was called for and read by Edward S. Wilde. The reading was attentively followed by all, and upon its conclusion a resolution was unanimously passed adopting the Committee's recommendations as the sense of the meeting and requesting the Township Committee not to make a contract with the Orange Water Company.

On the next night a mixed audience assembled, completely filling the Hall. George W. Cook was chosen to preside and Town Clerk Johnson acted as Secretary. The first speaker was G. Lee Stout, who is Chairman of the Water Committee. He said that two propositions had been made to the Township Committee on the subject of water supply. Before stating them he rehearsed what had been done by the Committee during the year past, which amounted simply to a recommendation that a renewal of the contract with the Orange Water Company be made for another ten years at the reduced price of \$30 a hydrant. This conclusion they reached a year or more ago, but the citizens of the town were of a different opinion and referred the question to a special committee of thirty. This committee, he said, met at various times through the spring and summer, and at length the Township Committee had determined to call the citizens' meeting of December 22d, at which to recommend again that a contract be made as heretofore. Instead of authorizing them to make it, the citizens had instructed the Committee to confer with the Orange Water Company and with the East Jersey Water Company upon this subject, and report. He said the Committee found that it was impossible to see the President of the Water Company, as he was away from home, and the President of the East Jersey Water Company had expressed himself as unwilling to interfere with the Orange Company in supplying water to Bloomfield. Mr. Shepard had now returned, had been seen, and the Water Committee now had a proposition to make from the Montclair Water Company to supply water at \$80 per million gallons; and another from the Orange Water Company to supply at \$30 per hydrant, contract to be for ten years, similar to that in force with East Orange, which Mr. Stout read. He said that to satisfy Glen Ridge a separate bill service would be furnished, the company obtaining water from the East Jersey Company, and that to insure adequate fire pressure, a heavier main, a 12 inch main, would be put down to Belleville Avenue as soon as practicable.

Edwin A. Smith said that he had been opposed to the renewal of the contract, but with the proposed improvement of the service for Glen Ridge he favored it, and offered a motion that the meeting authorize the Township Committee to enter into a new contract for ten years as proposed.

Edwin A. Rayner promptly offered an amendment that no contract be made with the company unless the same be first submitted to the citizens for their approval. E. S. Wilde read the resolution of the meeting of December 22d, and claimed that the instructions there given to the Township Committee had not been complied with, as they had not ascertained the price for which the Orange Water Company would sell their Bloomfield plant. He asked how it was the Committee had not done this.

Mr. Stout said the Committee of Thirty had struggled with that part, had made figures which he presumed were approximately correct as to the value of the plant. He had tried to find out from President Shepard but could not. They would not fix a price until there was some one ready to buy.

Mr. G. W. Hopping said the Citizens' Committee had waited in vain for the Town Committee to furnish these figures as instructed, and now when called together, it was not yet made.

Mr. Wilde undertook to throw some light on the subject by reading from a sub-committee report, which Messrs. Stout and Gallagher signed, wherein it was stated that a duplicate plant could be put down for \$68,980. S. P. Gilbert here offered a substitute to the pending motion, which was as follows:

Resolved: That it is the sense of this meeting that no further extension of the contract with the Orange Water Company should be made.

Resolved: That it is expedient that this township should own, control and operate its own system of water supply.

Resolved: That in order to effect this the township proceed to acquire from the Orange Water Company the present plant of that company, now located in our public streets, in the manner favored by Mr. F. M. Shepard, President of that Company, to wit, at a price to be agreed upon between the township and said Company, or, in case a price cannot be in this way arrived at, then and in that case through the usual method of arbitration.

Resolved: That upon acquiring the said plant the Township Committee is hereby instructed to make a contract for not more than one year with the Montclair or the East Jersey Water Company for a public and private supply of water, at a cost not exceeding \$80 per million gallons.

Resolved: That in order to provide funds to carry out the foregoing proposed arrangement, the township take immediate steps to secure the necessary legislation to enable it to utilize its present arrears of taxes and interest thereon, now aggregating at least \$100,000, or, in such other manner as may be considered as for the best interests of the township.

Mr. Gilbert in support of his resolutions said it was now three years since the Township Committee had first taken in consideration the water question. He spoke of the advantageous position held by Bloomfield for obtaining a State water supply. When the State had acquired the water rights, to avail ourselves of the same, we must own our own pipes. He thought we should acquire a plant at once, as an economic measure, and showed how it could be paid for out of the proceeds from tax arrears.

J. D. Gallagher spoke in favor of renewing the contract, because the Orange Water Company was entitled to it. The times were unfavorable for issuing bonds for a large amount. It was better to rent than to use principal. If we should buy the plant of the company we would find ourselves at the mercy of the other company, who would not let us have water except upon their terms. We should spend our money for sewers and help roads all over the township instead of buying a water plant. He spoke of the scheme of paying for a plant out of back taxes as visionary. These taxes, in his opinion, were of no use.

Mr. Gilbert, replying said that tax arrears were very good capital to make use of, and observed that the gentleman who last spoke had not paid some of his, but he would pay them, and the interest collected was in many cases more than the tax itself. The East Orange people were depending upon tax arrears to carry on some of their improvements and they were pretty good financiers over there.

Mr. Wilde characterized the speech of Mr. Gallagher as just such a speech as he (Wilde) would make if he had been employed to plead for corporations. He quoted from Governor Werts' message recommending State ownership and control of the

water supply, and read from a newspaper a dispatch from Trenton that Senator Bradley had introduced a bill to form a State Water Board, the reason for which was to protect the people in their rights. Speaking of the Orange Water Company now charging \$80 a hydrant, he said that if Bloomfield had a Committee to look properly after her interests she would not pay more than \$30, and that no more than that could be collected by the Company.

Committeeman Stout offered to bet Mr. Wilde \$1000 that the Company could charge and collect \$60 a hydrant.

Mr. Wilde made a good point by saying that the profit made by owning our own water plant would pay a considerable amount of the cost of building hard roads.

Mr. Smith censured Mr. Gilbert as a Committeeman for not seeing that the water contract was fulfilled, and somebody observed that he could not do much because he was outvoted in the Committee. Mr. Smith said that the cost of a plant, laying the pipes, etc., would be double what had been estimated, as had been the case in the sewer estimate.

Mr. Gilbert said the laying of pipes near the surface was a simple matter, not at all like putting a sewer down twenty-six feet under ground.

H. E. Richards went into a rambling talk in favor of the resolution to renew the contract. He got into personalities and was called to order by Mr. Rayner. He would not stop talking and some confusion ensued, with cries of "sit down," mingled with hisses, and he subsided.

Henry Lawrence made the point that if the Orange Water Company could make money by buying water of the East Jersey Company to supply Glen Ridge, the town of Bloomfield could make more by obtaining water direct of the latter company at \$80 a hydrant.

Late in the evening, when debate had been about exhausted, Judge Dodd spoke in favor of making the contract, and against the resolutions of Mr. Gilbert, especially that one in which it was said that the Orange Water Company were ready to sell their pipes, etc. In his opinion this was uncertain. He would like to know exactly what they would agree to.

A vote being called for, Mr. Wilde obtained the floor to ask Mr. Gilbert if he knew positively what the Company would do. Mr. Gilbert said that he had had a conversation with Mr. Shepard, the President of the Company, as late as five o'clock that afternoon, in which he said that the company would sell the pipes to the town.

The vote upon the adoption of the resolutions of Mr. Gilbert, as a substitute for the motion to allow the Committee to renew the contract for ten years, was taken and lost, 66 voting in favor of them and 118 against. Mr. Rayner moved to amend the original motion by striking out the word "ten" and inserting "one."

This amendment was carried, 145 to 93.

One Woman's Occupation.

That one-half of the world does not know how the other half lives is as true of polite circles as of the social notables. According to some statistics quietly circulated in Washington, a distinctly English style of adding to one's income prevails in unlocked quarters. It is well known that in London the hansom cabs are owned and run at a fine profit by a man of distinguished title. It should not therefore be so astonishing that to a Washington society woman has occurred the idea of emulating such an illustrious example by operating a similar industry. She buys up from time to time carriages in varying states of repair or dilapidation and runs them as "night liners." This fact she has of course endeavored to keep from her friends as she wisely grasps the fact that, while they one and all would be nothing loath to benefit themselves by such an unusual enterprise, they would be the first to turn and rend her for going into the business that now nets her a comfortable sum. — Kate Field's Washington.

The Foreign Bred Woman.

When shall the American young girl fully understand the young girl foreign bred? It is indeed an unanswerable query. For instance, it comes to us with the shock of an exaggeration that Mme. Paul Bourget has only recently been allowed to dip into unexpurgated romance. Though the wife of one of the most famous novelists of the day, Mme. Bourget had never been allowed to look between the covers of one of her husband's books, is utterly ignorant of the taint of literature of France and has read only as une jeune fille. Under American influences she has ventured on ground hitherto forbidden and borrowed some of the Manassas' works as an experiment. Truly, an American tour worketh wonders! But what does M. Bourget say? — Washington Post.

HOW A CITY IS BUILT.

ENERGY AND ENTERPRISE ARE EVER POTENT FACTORS.

They Are the Great Underlying Magic Touch Industry Springs Into Life and Commerce Utilizes Its Wings—Natural Advantages Not Indispensable.

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The town which is built on a great waterway or has other extraordinary transportation facilities, or those situated contiguous to coalfields, iron regions, lead mines or in districts rich in other natural resources, have a great advantage over those which are not so fortunate in this respect. But experience teaches us that a possession of natural advantages is not indispensable and an unfavorable location does not prevent a city from attaining greatness and success if the citizens who inhabit it are made of the right kind of stuff.

Chicago, the wonderful city which has made such strides in the past few years, is located on a tract of land which was at one time a swamp. A more forbidding spot for the site of a city could hardly be imagined. But the indomitable spirit of its early settlers, which still characterizes the citizens of that metropolis, overcame all obstacles and built a city that is at once the pride of the American people and the marvel of the world. Kansas City, the name of which is a synonym for western grit and enterprise, overlooks a rugged location. Rome was built on seven hills, but Kansas City boasts of being located on 70. The stranger who saw Kansas City in its early days and who visits it now can see an example of what energy and determination will do when put in practice. Bluffs have been blasted away, hills graded down, valleys filled up, and the State City has not only become beautiful, but is now the commercial center of the great west.

We have in our mind's eye a fine city in one of the western states which was laid out about 15 years ago on the raw prairie. This village had not one natural advantage to recommend it. It was many miles from navigation, and not even a streamlet sufficient to furnish water for domestic purposes flowed within several miles of it. It was remote from timber or coal, and if one had prophesied in its early days that a city would be built on that spot he would have been ridiculed. But what the embryo city lacked in natural resources was more than balanced by the pluck and persistence of the citizens who first took up their residence within its borders. "Hustle" has been their watchword from the day they secured a cross rail road up to the present time.

Four mammoth canning factories send their pack all over the United States and foreign countries, and the product of their overall and shirt factories are worn from Maine to California, and their foundries, machine shops and cigar factories furnish employment for hundreds of men and women, while a flourishing college is annually attended by a large number of young men and women, who contribute in no small measure to the volume of the city's trade. The farms for miles around present the appearance of vast market gardens, and their tillers reap a rich harvest, furnishing vegetables for the canneries and produce for consumption by the operatives in the various industries.

The city continues to grow and bids fair to become one of the most important manufacturing centers in the west. All this has been attained solely by the exercise of energy and enterprise of the citizens, directed and encouraged by three or four leading spirits. A paid secretary keeps himself informed of the movements in the commercial and industrial world, and no sooner does a manufacturing enterprise, state or charitable institution intimate that it contemplates a change of location, or there is an inquiry for a suitable place for the establishment of a new industry, than a committee of business men from this city at once besieges the management with data and evidence to convince them that no place on the footstool can offer such inducements as the city they represent.

The promoters of the city we have referred to have monopolized an enterprise, and their methods are not copyrighted. They have no exclusive privilege to make a desert bloom like a rose or build cities where but a few years ago tall weeds nodded in the wind and the gopher dug his hole unscared. That which they have accomplished under disadvantageous surroundings we who have so many natural advantages that they have not may also accomplish. It is only a matter of making the attempt and persevering in it. Industries that will employ labor will enhance the value of our property, make business for our merchants and furnish a home market for the products of our farms. All classes of people will profit by it. Energy and enterprise, backed by brains and common sense, will accomplish all this, and more.

A Good Word for the Newspaper.

At a recent business convention Governor Francis of Missouri, who is in a position to know whereof he speaks, paid tribute to the local newspaper as follows:

"Each year the local paper gives from \$500 to \$5,000 in free lines to the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor, in proportion to his means, does more for his town than any other 10 men, and in all fairness with men he ought to be supported—not because you like him or admire his writings, but because the local paper is the best investment a community can make. It may not be brilliantly edited or crowded with thought, but it is more beneficial to the community than the teacher or preacher. Understand me, I do not mean mentally or morally, but financially, and yet on the moral question you will find most of the local papers on the right side. Today the editors of the local papers do the most for the least money of any people on the face of the earth."

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The above cut represents a house costing \$2,300 with all improvements. Has furnace heat, bath tub, basin and sanitary closet in back, sink and boiler in kitchen and wash trays in cellar. House is shingled, clap-boarded, finished in white wood in the interior. Rooms on first floor, Parlor, 13 x 14, Dining room, 12 ft. 6 in. x 16 ft. 3 in., Kitchen 10 x 12, Dining room closet, 5 ft. 5 in. x 5 ft. 6 in., Hall, 8 x 13 ft. 6 in. From front door to stairs is 10 ft. 6 in., hence we have a reception room 8 x 10 ft. 6 in. This opens with parlor by sliding doors, dining room parlor are connected by sliding doors. Rooms on second floor. Room parlor 11 ft. 6 in. x 15, room over dining room, 14 ft. 6 in. x 15 ft. 6 in. room over kitchen, 9 x 12, room over hall, 9 x 9 ft. 6 in. Has porch of closet room on second floor. House has a very pretty stair case, two rooms can be built in the attic. At Passaic we have built this house for \$2,100. I think I am safe in saying that it can be built for \$2,300.

HERMAN FRITZ,
ARCHITECT,
Passaic, New Jersey.